

AFTERMATH 01 THE V/AR

greeted them as liberators. On December 14 the Azerbaijan regime collapsed. Tabriz was captured by government troops and several Democrat leaders, including Governor Jafar, were under arrest. Pishevari escaped to the Soviet Union. Some time after the raids he was reported killed in a motor accident at Baku. A number of Democrats followed him across the border, and the rest dispersed. At the same time the government army captured the Kurdish stronghold of Mahabad. Qazi Mohammed, the President of the Kurdish Republic, and his brother Sadra Qazi were caught and, after a trial, shot. Back at Teheran stern measures were taken again: the Tudeh, whose headquarters were raided and a number of whose members were thrown in prison. The triumph of the 50% of the 25% of the Azerbaijan was reunited with the rest of the country exactly a year after separation: the Kurdish movement was suppressed and the Tudeh Party was reduced to impotence in the capital.

The road was thus opened for parliamentary elections. These began on January 11, 1947, and were concluded in most districts by February. Yet it was only in the middle of August that the Fifteenth Majlis was finally inaugurated. Qavam's Deistocratic party won a substantial majority of seats. The opposition led by Dr. Mosaddeq counted about twenty-five deputies. The Communists won two seats. Their chief spokesman was Abbas Iskandari, elected from Hamadan. The first weeks of the new parliament were spent on routine business such as confirmation of mandates and election of officers. Simultaneously, behind the scenes there was feverish political activity preparatory to the inevitable debate on the oil agreement. When the Majlis met, it was generally assumed that it would

promptly ratify
the oil deal. Qavam himself reportedly desired to
placate Soviet ap-
prehensions by speedy ratification. Soviet Ambassador
Sadchikov
pressed the Premier repeatedly to speed up the
ratification. On
August 28 and September 15 he handed to Qavam
formal notes in
which the Iranian governments delating tactics were
called a "re-
turn to the policy of enmity towards and
discrimination against the
Soviet Union," Yet the Russians met strong and
rather unexpected
resistance. In a series of forceful speeches before the
Majlis the
deputies of the opposition attacked the oil agreement
as harmful,
illegal, and as "the worst agreement in the past
hundred years of